

Matthew 6:5–6 (NLT)

⁵*“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”*

- 7) What warning is Jesus giving about our spiritual motives?
- 8) Why does God place such value on what is done in secret?

Mark 10:42–45 (NLT)

⁴²*So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

- 9) How does Jesus describe leadership in the Kingdom of God?
- 10) What does Jesus’ own example teach us about greatness?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where am I tempted to seek recognition instead of faithfulness?
- 2) What unseen daily disciplines could deepen my walk with Jesus this week?
- 3) Ask God to search your heart and refine your motives.

What COULD be Written About You?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | February 8, 2026

Thread: If only a few will know our name, will we put in the daily work?

“Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. Then he said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.’”

Luke 9:46-48 NLT

“Least” to “greatest” is a title describing humility, innocence and deep faith.

In the Kingdom of God things are different:

- We don’t seek greatness.

“Welcomes me”

We don’t seek to become great; we seek the ONE who is Greatest.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” **Matthew 6:5-6 ESV**

“Little child”

We seek humility and innocence with deep faith in Jesus.

- **We don’t seek to be served; we seek to serve.**

“You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:42-45 NLT

“John said to Jesus, ‘Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn’t in our group.’ But Jesus said, ‘Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you.’”

Luke 9:49-50 NLT

Confession Time!

Challenge:

- Does my heart or do my motives need a correction?
- How could I serve better?
- How badly do I want a CLOSER/DEEPER walk with Jesus? What will I sacrifice for it?

New Sunday morning Bible study — Why Am I Here? Discovering God’s Purpose for My Life. 10:50 a.m.- 12:10 p.m. Sundays. Starts Feb. 15 In Room 5. Register here:



Online Bible Study — Live Life as an Adventure: dougbramptonbooks.com/resources/live-adventure

Online Ebook — Living with Purpose: dougbramptonbooks.com/live-with-purpose

Homework

What Could be Written About You?

Winter 2026 | Week 5

Message Date 2/8/2026

MY STORY

- 1) If your life had a highlight reel like a sports broadcast, what’s one totally unimpressive moment that would make the cut?
- 2) What’s something you’ve worked really hard at that very few people actually know about?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Luke 9:46–48 (NLT)

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⁴⁷But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side.

⁴⁸Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”

- 4) Why were the disciples arguing about greatness, and what does this reveal about their hearts?
- 5) How does Jesus completely redefine what it means to be great?
- 6) Why do you think Jesus used a child as His illustration?